

[0083] To ensure that the puck member 578 is not generally capable of being removed from the channel member 576, the locking mechanism 593 may be used. In these embodiments, the locking mechanism 593 may include the locking pin 597 and a corresponding aperture 599 in the puck member 578. Any appropriate number of apertures 599 may be used, e.g., one, two, three, etc. In addition any number of locking pins 597 may be used, e.g., one, two, three etc. Still further, the number of apertures 599 may match the number of locking pins 597 utilized or the numbers of apertures 599 and locking pins 597 may not be the same. The locking pin 597 may fit into the aperture 599 via an interference fit. The locking pin 597 may be pushed into the aperture 599. Next, the puck member 578 may be rotated, e.g., 90 degrees, until fully seated wherein the locking pin 597 may engage the locking aperture 592. Once the locking pin 597 may be so engaged with the locking aperture 592, the locking pin 597 may be pushed into engagement with the locking aperture 592 via the interference fit. The locking mechanism 593 may generally prevent further rotation and thus removal of the puck member 578 from the channel member 576.

[0084] The center recess section 598 may be of a shape and size to receive any appropriate accessory member 101 such as a T-bolt 103 having a handle 105. Any number or variety of accessory members 101 may be utilized with the receiving members 574. The accessory member 101 may be any appropriate or desired type of object, such as a cap or a safety chain tie down member.

[0085] As mentioned above the installer may use the receiving member 574, or at least the channel member 576, in the towing vehicle and may not have to pre-drill any apertures in the load bed 32. In addition, the receiving member 574 may include a puck member 578 that may be of the appropriate configuration for the applicable use, and different thickness puck members 578 may be used depending upon the towing vehicle to which the under bed hitch mounting system 30 may be attached. Further, different puck members may have additional features designed therein, including, without limitation including a trim ring feature.

[0086] Although the embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated in the accompanying drawings and described in the foregoing detailed description, it is to be understood that the present invention is not to be limited to just the embodiments disclosed, but that the invention described herein is capable of numerous rearrangements, modifications and substitutions without departing from the scope of the claims hereafter. By way of non-limiting example, other accessories may be attached to the vehicle utilizing the under bed hitch mounting system 30, such as bike racks, ramps, storage containers, etc. The claims as follows are intended to include all modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the claims or the equivalent thereof.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. A hitch mounting system comprising:

at least one rail configured to fit between a frame and a load bed of a vehicle and configured to attach with the frame;

at least one mounting aperture located in the rail;

a channel member positioned in the mounting aperture and attached to the rail; and

an accessory attachment member attached to the channel member, wherein the accessory attachment member is

capable of having an accessory mounting member secured thereto, wherein the channel member includes at least one recess and the accessory attachment member includes at least one flange whereby the flange is insertable into the recess.

2. The hitch mounting system of claim 1 further comprising a mid-rail attached to the rail, wherein the mid-rail includes a hitch ball socket, the hitch ball socket capable of having a gooseneck hitch ball secured thereto.

3. The hitch mounting system of claim 1, wherein the channel member includes at least one leg, wherein the leg is attached to the rail within the mounting aperture and wherein the leg positions the accessory attachment member generally flush with the load bed of the vehicle when the rail is attached to the frame of the vehicle.

4. The hitch mounting system of claim 1, wherein inserting and rotating the accessory attachment member within the channel member selectively attaches the accessory attachment member to the channel member.

5. The hitch mounting system of claim 1, wherein the flange is capable of entering the recess and rotation of the accessory attachment member engages the flange with the channel member and selectively attaches the accessory attachment member to the channel member.

6. The hitch mounting system of claim 5, wherein the accessory attachment member being rotated approximately 90 degrees selectively attaches the accessory attachment member to the channel member.

7. The hitch mounting system of claim 1, wherein the accessory comprises a fifth wheel hitch.

8. A hitch mounting system comprising:

at least one rail member capable of attaching to a frame of a vehicle generally below a load bed of the vehicle; a channel member attached to the rail member; and

an accessory attachment member selectively attached to the channel member, wherein the accessory attachment member is capable of having an accessory mounting member secured thereto, wherein the channel member includes at least one recess and the accessory attachment member includes at least one flange wherein the flange is capable of entering the recess and rotating the accessory attachment member engages the flange with the channel member and selectively attaches the accessory attachment member to the channel member.

9. The hitch mounting system of claim 8, wherein the channel member comprises a channel.

10. A hitch mounting system comprising:

at least one rail capable of attaching to a frame of a vehicle generally below a load bed of the vehicle;

at least one mounting aperture located in the rail; and

a receiving member positioned in the mounting aperture and attached to the rail, the receiving member comprising:

a channel member positioned in the mounting aperture and attached to the rail, wherein the channel member has a top surface and includes at least one recess; and an accessory attachment member attached to the channel member by inserting the accessory attachment member into the channel member and rotating the accessory attachment member, wherein the accessory attachment member is capable of having an accessory mounting member inserted into and secured thereto, and whereby the accessory attachment member includes at least one flange sized to fit within the at least one recess.